

WRESTLING FORUM

NOVEMBER 15, 1988

VOLUME III

issue 21

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WAKE ME IF SOMETHING HAPPENS

Let's see now...I've done sixty seven issues of Wrestling Forum now (including this one) and without a doubt, this has been the slowest that any news have ever been. There is absolutely nothing happening in the world of wrestling. Oh, sure, the NWA did one of the biggest angles of the year, but other than that, nothing...at least not at the time I'm typing this. Wrestling news usually comes in bunches though, so I'm looking forward to a whole bunch of stuff by the end of the issue.

Without any further ado, let's get to the paragraph that 86.3 % of you skip over and that's the one required by the postal service. Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th and 30th of each month and mailed the following day. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months worth which would give you twelve issues for \$18.00.

The biggest question from last issue was "what is a blue bullet?" We had the phrase "from the home of the 10-0 Knoxville Blue Bullets" above the table of contents last time around. The Blue Bullets is the name of the high school football (and basketball) team from the high school I attended here in Knoxville last century. My senior football team went 0-7-1, so an undefeated team is really something for us here in a small town. To update that (for the eleven of you who really care) we are now 12-0 and play next Saturday in the semi finals of the State tournament. And they tell me our basketball team should improve on the 25-3 record they had last year.

Meanwhile, we open the voting for the year end awards we give out. Actually, we don't actually hand out awards, but we do announce them and any of the recipients who would like to stop by here in Knoxville...well, we'll find something to present to you. The voting continues till the end of the year. We will announce the WINNERS ONLY in the January 15th issue of the Forum with complete results in the yearbook (which should be ready the last week of January).

Speaking of the yearbook, there are a few survey questions we'd like you to answer this year as well and those are explained at the end of the categories. If there is anything else you'd like to see included in the yearbook this year, especially those of you who have received the previous two, let us know. We want to make this one the best ever.

"They Live" starring Roddy piper has open across the country and was number one in box office sales its first week. I understand from a few subscribers, mainly on the East Coast, that his first movie "BodySlam" is on the video stores' shelves this week as well. We'll try to squeeze in a review or two before the end of the bulletin.

In the meantime, let's take a look at the latest results from our Wrestling Forum Tournament...

THIRD ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT

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semi final results

Ted DiBiase bankrolled Barry Windham 15-13 (2 draws).
Ric Flair outclassed Randy Savage 16-10 (4 draws).
Owen Hart blindsided Stan Hansen 17-11 (2 draws).
Bobby Eaton surprised Road Warrior Hawk 16-14.

tag team results

Midnight Express destroyed Anderson/Blanchard 22-7 (1)
Road Warriors turned on Rougeaus 18-10 (2)
Choshu/Saito rolled the Rockers 17-11 (2)
Powers of Pain jumped past Windham/Garvin 18-9 (3).

TOURNEYfacts: This is the first year that Savage has not been involved in the finals. It is both Flair and DiBiase's second trip each. They faced each other in last year's semi final round...Five of the eight finalists were top eight seeds...only one unseeded wrestler made it to the final rounds, that being Stan Hansen.

FINALS

FOR SEVENTH PLACE

Road Warrior Hawk (22) vs STAN HANSEN (-)

FOR FIFTH PLACE

Owen Hart (8) vs BOBBY EATON (10)

FOR THIRD PLACE

BARRY WINDHAM (4) vs Randy Savage (3)

for the championship

RIC FLAIR (2) VS TED DIBAISE (1)

TAG TEAM FIANLS

for seventh place

Rockers (-) vs WINDHAM/GARVIN (15)

for fifth place

Choshu/Saito (5) vs POWERS OF PAIN (6)

for third place

Rougeaus (-) vs BLANCHARD/ANDERSON (4)

championship match

Midnight Express (1) vs ROAD WARRIORS (2)

Heel wrestlers are listed in capital letters. Mail ballots for the tournament to SEAN GRANDE, 700 COMMON-WEALTH AVE BOX 701-C, BOSTON MA, 02215. Deadline for votes is December 11, 1988 .

CONTINENTAL

I'm sorry to have to start off the bulletin with such little news, but we warned you. Just not w whole lot coming out of here at all and I guess the major story is that the group is still in business. From talking to a couple of insiders, that in itself is a major accomplishment.

A lot of the boys have been scared into believing that they won't have jobs in a couple of months. The vicious circle that is going on here is simple. The promotion won't spend money to bring in some of the independent stars that they had been because gates are down.

Gates are down, partly due to the lack of talent. I'm afraid there isn't a quick solution to the problem although when Eddie Gilbert was here he seemed to have the situation well in hand. The only thing was, the company wasn't making much money.

Tim Horner was set to turn heel, but he got an offer to join Titan and he jumped at the chance. I'm not sure how he will fit in with the WWF, but I'll guarantee trips to the bank will be a lot more pleasant for mr. Horner.

Dutch Mantell had been doing color commentary nthe CWF show and was playing pretty much a tweener role (neither heel nor babyface), but that has been solved. During a Bullet match, he turned complete heel and aligned himself with Jerry Stubbs and Tony Anthony.

There has been some talk of trying to align the promotion with some of the smaller groups in much the same way the AWA, Memphis and World Class did. about the only one left is Owens and I believe that there is some sort of arrangement to more or less trade some wrestlers on an occasional basis. The Grapplers are in here now and they had worked Portland recently. As for anything official, though, nothing has yet been established. The Grappler's thing may be and probably is coincidental.

WRESTLING WITH A FUTURE

Our first column didn't go over as well as I thought it would. I think it may have been due to the question and answer type of format. With this in mind, I am going to run this column under this name for this issue only. From there it will be called "Wrestler's Forum." Several wrestlers have written or called to express an interest in doing some writing, addressing different subjects in an open, yet anonymous, forum. We welcome those who wish to participate and always, when dealing with those in the business, the utmost will be done to protect your identity (even Mary doesn't know who our "Week With the Fed" writer is). Let's get on to this issue's column by that man.

The subject I'd like to cover this time is travel and the use of drugs. I guess those are the most asked questions coming in right now. The travel is something that especially with an independent is something you just have to get used to. Long trips, (sometimes you share a ride to save money) is just part of the job. Our promoter gives us a map and a general idea of how to get to the town, and usually you don't get a chance to get used to surroundings because once they run a show in a town, the return trip is months down the road. There are only a handful of towns I can say I've wrestled in twice.

Traveling can be entertaining and there's lots of "war stories" that get passed around the dressing room. Once I rode to a show with a couple of guys who were just HUGE. They both had Road Warrior type haircuts and were proud of them, so they didn't cover them up with hats or scarves or anything. We stopped at a gas station for directions to the building we were going to be at and a couple of local tough guys decided to test themselves. My buddies and I thought we were pretty tough ourselves, but we ended up getting our butts kicked real good (and there was only two of them and three of us...they were smaller too). Part of that problem was us being used to pulling our punches. They didn't have that problem.

As for drugs, the biggest problem is probably alcohol. The promoters provide us with beer in the locker rooms after the matches in most cases which almost encourages use. There's guys going into the ring drunker than skunks on many occasions. And you thought when they brushed by you without acknowledging your autograph book they were just being idiots. Guess again, they were probably very drunk and just didn't see you.

Steroids are of course a major "problem" within the major federations. That's because the boys there have to be huge in order to get over with a national audience. The guys in the independents take them to some extent, but not nearly as much. As I said before, I made my decision to stay clean of all drugs (with the possible exception of pain killers) and I truly believe that's part of the reason I haven't gotten a break. I don't have the time to spend in a gym (or the money) to get "bulked up" and there's no way some one that looks like me can get to be as cut as Ultimate Warrior without the needles.

One of the reasons I'm very careful of who I ride with is because of the unwritten rule of doing whatever the driver of the car does. If the driver does pot, everyone in that car does pot. That way, no one can squeal. If the driver does coke, then everyone does coke. I have driven while I was probably legally intoxicated, but that's rare.

While in the WWF, I didn't witness a lot of drug use, though I heard a lot about it. Hard stuff is available through the arena rats if you want it though most of the guys usually just go for pot or some pills. Now you know why arena rats are so popular.

Just as an update, I still haven't been contacted by Titan although in the next six months I understand they are doing tapings in the area. I'll keep my fingers crossed.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Without a doubt, the biggest topic of conversation over the phone lines the past week has been the angle they shot introducing Paul E Dangerously and the Original Midnight Express. A lot happened to set everything up, but it seemed to be all necessary.

First of all, the Road Warriors did defeat the team of Lane and Eaton to win the World Tag Team belts on 10/29 in New Orleans. The Warriors attacked the Express before the bell and really did a number on Eaton. They then started working on Lane during the actual match. He was just about dead when Bobby pulled himself back up on the ring apron and managed to tag in. He came in and cleaned house for a bit before they ended up double teaming him and getting a clean pin. This left Bobby in no shape to wrestle on the next weekend's version of the TBS show. That turned out to be important.

Jim Cornette did an interview taking the blame for losing the belts. Clearly, it was a babyface interview with Cornette dropping the wimp routine and becoming more serious. Stan Lane then went to the ring with a singles match. During the match, Tony Shivone announced they had an on set phone call. Cornette put up a fuss then found out it was a "collect call for him" (this was kind of dumb, but we'll get to that in a minute). We could only hear his side of the conversation and he appeared to be upset with the caller, challenging "whoever" it was to meet them anytime, anyplace. "Anytime, anyplace" turned out to be a lot sooner than they expected as Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose hi the ring and threw powder in Lane's eyes and destroyed Bobby. Cornette hi the ring but was met by none other than Paul E who hit Jim with the phone. Cornette, complete with white blazer and shirt, then bladed (reportedly his first blade job) and bled buckets while Paul and the Express slapped him around. Good stuff, Maynard!

Now for the nitpicking: We knew something was coming and us inside fans knew exactly what. We just didn't know how. The casual fans knew something was coming as well. The camera work for the angle was atrocious and it gave away a lot before we actually saw what happened. While Cornette is talking on the phone, camera men are all over the place looking to see where the run in was going to come from so they didn't miss it (this should have been arranged beforehand). Then they missed the run in and almost missed the powder in the eyes. What the cameras picked up instead was Cornette whipping off his glasses (I thought he was going to rip off his shirt as well to reveal a big red "S") and hand them to Tony Shivone. Cornette's supposed to be a wimp. Why was he taking off his glasses off? Despite what the cameras missed, they did catch Jim taking the blade out of his shirt pocket, making the cut, and returning it to the same. Again, this is something that inside fans picked up on, but not fans in general. There was no follow up interview with anyone which hurt the angle. One thing that helped was Jim Ross' commentary which was superb including a line, "What are they doing here? They don't even wrestle in the NWA" referring to Rose and Condrey. All in all, I gave the angle an A, missing the A+ just because of the unprepared cameras.

Abdullah the Butcher also debuted on the show. I don't care what people say about his light work in the ring (that is, wrestlers say he works light) I sure wouldn't climb in the ring against him! Gary Hart will handle (?) him.

another guy I wouldn't want to get in the ring with is Lex Luger. Not that I wouldn't want to wrestle him, but I sure as hell wouldn't want him to pick me up. He has this tendency to drop people...a lot. I thought that he had over come his problem (used to be he dropped people while getting them up in the torture rack), but this week he had his opponent above his head and the guy slipped and Luger made a fool of himself trying to catch the guy. Looked terrible.

Steve Williams is the newest member of the Varsity club, but no details were announced on TBS. I understand the angle was shown on the syndicated show (or at least was shot) but the promise to update us next week. In the meantime, Rick Steiner had a blow up during an interview where he finally told Kevin Sullivan that he could beat Flair, Doc, Rotundo or even him. Nothing more but this turn should be complete by the time you read this.

The follow up interview that Jim Cornette did regarding the sneak attack by Paul E and company was tremendous. Jim had the studio audience eating out of his hand which is pretty amazing that the angle went over that well to studio type fans. At one point they were chanting for him and he told them to be quiet AND THEY SHUT UP! They popped at all the right moments during the spot and should establish Cornette as a very effective babyface. Paul E did an interview at the beginning of the show (Cornette's was during the middle), and although a good interview as well, not up to the standard he usually sets. Round one goes to Cornette with the stick.

Abdullah on his second week in (actually I think the two weeks were taped on successive nights) ate part of the podium where the announcers stand. Honest. He started nibbling on the wood and the camera got a close up of wood coming out of his mouth. This convinces me of two things. 1) This man is major league weird and 2) I should have gone into dentistry. I know now why they brought him in. It's to keep you from falling asleep during Gary Hart interviews.

Last week they had built up the fact that both Barry Windham and Ric Flair would be defending their respective titles on TV this week. During the week they had promos during their regular schedule about the upcoming TV title defenses. We got them, but it was Barry vs Curtis Thompson and Ric vs George South. Flair made South look like a contender and the Windham match wasn't that bad either. The Flair match is the type of squash I grew up watching. The jobber never really has a chance, but he does get to display some offense.

After Windham's match, he and JJ were confronted by 8 1/2 months pregnant Oliver Humperdink and Bam Bam Bigelow. They didn't have much of a confrontation at the desk as Bigelow laid into Windham and pushed him in the ring to set up some heat on a feud there. Bam Bam was about to splash him from the top rope when JJ rescued Barry by pulling him out of the ring.

The next Clash of Champions Special on TBS will take place on December 7 at 8:05 pm eastern, but I don't have the site right here at my fingertips. They have dubbed this one "Season's Beatings." Cute.

Big changes around the corner it looks like. From what I understand about the new management, they want to return the style of wrestling to that like what Sam Munchnik promoted in St. Louis for years. In other words, concentrate more on the wrestling, less on the interviews. Squash matches will be more on the order of what we saw this past weekend with the jobber getting in their fair share of offense as well.

The other change is the situation with Ric Flair. A couple of weeks back, there was a major rift in relations between him, new management and Dusty. The conflict centered around how Flair was being used. Flair wanted some clean pinfall wins and Dusty said he couldn't have them so Flair basically walked out. He was lured back after some coaxing from some close friends, but then he refused to defend the NWA title in singles matches (sounds like an angle, doesn't it) and instead worked tag matches with Barry as his partner. He had pretty well decided that come January he was headed for Titan since that was when his contract ran out. This past week though, I understand things have been smoothed over and in fact, Flair is walking around with a brand new contract.

Although the details of the contract are not available, Turner and company are very excited about the signing. They will reportedly plan on building the promotion completely around Flair as a babyface. No word on when the turn will take place, but we are fairly certain that the title will not change hands at Starrcade like it looked like it was a few weeks ago.

Speaking of Starrcade, coming up on December 26th this year, the only matches we know of for sure at this point involve the Roadies against Dusty and Bam Bam for the titles (and for some reason I suspect a title change) and the Midnight vs Midnight match. Things from this point on will do nothing but set up matches for that show with a lot going on Thanksgiving week. That week will be called Battlestars Week with major shows happening up and down the main cities of the east coast. I would expect we'll also see something involving Steiner against the Varsity club, possibly him teaming with Eddie Gilbert and Ron Simmons against Sullivan, Rotundo and Doc.

Other possible matches from what I've seen so far is the Fantastics against the Shepherders and from the way the Fantastics have been carrying around the American Flag, I would bet it'll be a flag vs flag match. Windahm will probably wrestle either Sting or Luger and I expect another title change here no matter which guy he wrestles. Odds on favorite at this point would almost have to be Sting. That would leave Flair to wrestle the other, again it would (under this supposition) be Luger.

I have to wonder just how effective Paul E and the original Midnight Express are going to be. The angle seems to have come off better than a lot they've done this year (dare I say the best), but the feud is a limited one. Paul E brought out the point himself this weekend in a TV interview. He said something about the NWA saying they didn't want him and the Originals because they already had the midnight Express. In that case, after the feud, there is only going to be room for one team. They can't continue with two teams by the same name. Paul E's future might be a little more secure as he can pick up someone else to manage (like Eddie Gilbert who would be a prime candidate for a turn about that time), But I don't see much of a future of Rose or Condrey after this thing is all done with. Neither is much of a singles wrestler and how could they possibly keep either one around after being soundly defeated (providing that happens and it has to happen doesn't it?). After feuding with Eaton and Lane, whichever one is the loser, they won't be marketable to another promotion since the whole concept was to decide who the better of the teams with the same name was.

I'm also being informed that the Turner people are getting very stingy with the extra dollars they spend. Seems they don't like writing checks to those people who don't actually wrestle and this includes managers (who we will probably see a whole lot less of come the first of the year), referees, and other non producing crew. They are thinking of re arranging the announcing crew as well and they have talked with Gordon Solie about him coming back in. Solie would be a boost to the rating they feel since he has a long time following. David Crockett (despite prior arrangements) and Tony Shivone are right now in very precarious positions with their jobs. Jim Ross may be also, though I think public outcry would be heard if he were to be let go. In some cases, the announcers in question might be taken out of the booth and put into a front office position of one sort or another.

Finally, the man they are bringing in to run the wrestling part of the Turner Organization is an outsider. I've heard that he knows nothing of the nature of the business but will be willing to learn. My only question at this point is, "What does he think about the sheets?" I figure he'll have enough people telling him what he should do that somebody will be able to guess right.

WINDY CITY

I can't believe DeCero has been uncooperative since the convention. He must really feel his promotion is collapsing around him. He would have to be a genius to keep his promotion on the excellent level he initially began with, after the death of Brody and the defection of so many independents. Right after the convention I received a flyer plugging him for a Thursday (?) evening card in (I think) Lake Forrest (or somewhere in that vicinity). I haven't heard from him since and I was under the impression they were going to promote another Amphitheatre show by the middle of November.

-RON DOBRATZ-

-Roscoe, IL-

I hate to tell you I told you so, but...

It seems that you are a little put out because Windy City folks decided that you weren't the medium to use when getting publicity. They used you. Just like they used everybody. You alway printed glowing reports whether or not the show or booking sucked. You defended Sam DeCero and company to your dying breath. You got kicked in the teeth. It was a one night stand and you had hoped for a lasting relationship. Think again, chump.

Windy City owed a lot of its success to you. The people who blindly follow your opinions thought it was great. Those same people are probably calling the front office people the same names you are...because you are. If you had given them straight stories instead of building them up to be something they weren't, the fans would still have turned out to see their shows. But your feelings would have been spared and so would those "smart fans" who got slapped in the face as well.

I hope you learned something.

-RANDY MCNEELY

-Highland Park, IL-

EDITOR: I still say that my reporting was accurate and that the only reason I didn't "pan" their shows and their booking was because they were honest with me up until the end. As I said before, I will trust ANYONE until that person gives me a reason not to trust them. At that point, they become fair game. As for the future of the promotion, I hear two stories. One is that they have folded completely. The other is that

they are suspending operations until they get TV in early January. Either way, I wish them the best of luck in future endeavors and will cover the promotion the same as I cover any promotion; honestly with a touch of sarcasm and humor.

ANGLE OF THE YEAR

I don't know who came up with the angle between the Midnights, but this was the best thing I've seen in a long time. Jim Ross capped the whole thing when he screamed, "They don't even wrestle here!" This is going to give us classic interviews in the weeks to come not to mention classic matches. My hats off to whoever it was (certainly this was above Dusty's head) who came up with the angle of the year.

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

RIP OFFS

How can we be assured that the people you give advertising to are legit? I have sent for thing listed in both the Observer and the Forum and got nothing in return. Fortunately, I have never sent money, or at least never been ripped off money wise. I just worry that you may be set up for something when you advertise. Is there someway you check things out before printing them?

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

EDITOR: The rule for getting a plug in the Forum is simple: You must be a subscriber and I must see a sample of the thing you're wanting to plug. That way I can tell you something about the quality of the thing you might be ordering. Newsletters tend to come and go so we try to plug those that have been around a while or we let you know they are new. There's been only one, called Turnbuckle Talk" published in Maryland that has not refunded money or sent promised copies to those who sent money. Just this past week I've received two offers from people who wanted me to plug things, but could not (or would not) provide me with samples. One was a video tape that "is in production." If we find out there is a blatant rip off concerning wrestling related items, believe me, we'll let you know.

THIRD ANNUAL YEAR END AWARDS

Yes kiddies, once again it's time to take out paper and pen and scribble down your choices in some thirty-odd categories for the Wrestling Forum Third Annual Year End Awards. Before getting to the categories, let's go over the ground rules before we get to the categories.

1. Anyone may vote; subscribers, readers, friends, enemies, wrestlers or whoever. If you are reading this sentence, than that's all the qualification there is.
2. To help us process votes, please list the number of the category and title of the category of which you are voting.
3. You may vote for up to three choices in each category. First place votes receive 3 points, 2nd place votes get 2 points and 3rd place votes get 1 point.
4. Voting begins now and runs until Dec. 31, 1988. Any ballots after that date will not count.
5. Comments to go along with your votes are welcome. We will print selected comments in the yearbook with the results.
6. Winners only will be announced in the January 15, 1989 edition of Wrestling Forum. Complete results will be published in the 1988 Yearbook.
7. The time period covered by your voting is basically November 15, 1987-December 30, 1988, unless otherwise noted.
8. Mail your ballots to: Wrestling Forum, Box 65, Knoxville, IL, 61448, Attention: Ballot

With all that out of the way, let's get to the categories:

1. MAN OF THE YEAR-This year we've opened up this category to include anyone associated with the sport. Your selection should be based on who has had the biggest impact on the sport (negative or positive) either through one act, a series of acts, or general consistency all year long. Previous winners" none.
2. WRESTLER OF THE YEAR-Here we deviate from the normal. We're asking you to rank the top 10 wrestlers over the past year. This should be a cumulative ranking, not just over the past week or two. 1st place gets 10 points, 2nd place nine points and so on down. The top 10 finishers will be the official Wrestling Forum top 10 for 1988. Previous winners of WRESTLER OF THE YEAR, 1986 & 1987: Ric Flair.
3. ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Our rookie rule states that anyone who began wrestling in a major promotion in the previous 15 months is eligible. Alphabetically, the top candidates are: Drill Instructor Bob Carter, Steve Casey, Derrick Dukes, Magnificent Mimi, Todd Morton, Max Pain, Private Pyle, Ricky Rice, scott Steiner, and probably a lot more that I've missed. Several of these wrestlers have worked part time for independent promotions and they are considered eligible since starting full time for a major one. Criteria is mainly working fulltime. Previous winners of ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: 1986 Bam Bam Bigelow, 1987 shane Douglas
4. PROMOTION OF THE YEAR: In terms of all-round entertainment, which promotion had the best year? Every aspect should be considered including talent roster, booking, attendance, big show accomplishments, how well potential was used, etc. Previous winners of PROMOTION OF THE YEAR: 1986: UWF, 1987: WWF.
5. WORST PROMOTION:...And on the other side of the coin, who did the worst job? Previous winners of WORST PROMOTION: 1986: AWA, 1987: World Class.
6. TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR: Qualifications for this award are similar to WRESTLER OF THE YEAR with a bit more emphasis placed on workrate. Previous winners of TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR: 1986: Eaton & Condry 1987: Eaton & Lane
7. MOST OVERRATED: The question is, overrated by whom? Inside

fans? Casual fans? Newsletter editors? Selections here come from all angles and it's usually best to go with a combination. Previous winners of MOST OVERRATED: 1986 & 1987: Hulk Hogan.

8. MOST UNDERRATED: Who hardly ever makes the top ten, but should? Who are the wrestlers that everyone seems to forget when workrate is discussed. Previous winners of MOST UNDERRATED: 1986: Bret Hart, 1987: Curt Hennig.

9. MATCH OF THE YEAR: Feel free to include any match you saw live or on TV from Nov 1987-Dec 1988. Your choice here should be most memorable in your mind. Include dates if you can or at least something distinctive about the match (i.e. title change, etc) Previous winners of MATCH OF THE YEAR: 1986: 2-14-86 Ric Flair vs Barry Windham, 1987: 3-29-87 Randy Savage vs Rick Steamboat

10. ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR: This category is for play by play announcers. Possible candidates this year include: Bob Caudle, Marc Lowrance, Lee Marshall, Vince McMahon, Gorilla Monsoon, Larry Nelson, Charlie Platt, Jim Ross, Lance Russell, Tony Shrivone, Ron Strongard. Previous winners of ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR: 1986: Jesse Ventura. 1987: Jim Ross.

11. COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR: Here we honor the announcers who "add color" to the broadcast by use of witticisms, additional descriptions, and sometimes just being a foil for the play man. Candidates this year include: Dave Brown, David Crockett, Verne Gagne, Bobby Heenan, Harvey Martin, Larry Nelson, Joe Pedicino, Jim Ross, (Note that some play by play also qualify as color men) Previous winners of COLOR COMMENTATOR: 1986: none 1987: Jesse Ventura.

12. JOBBER OF THE YEAR: Here's to the guys who make the stars look good week after week. I've tried to give ten suggestions and I may have missed the top three by accident. Here, in alphabetical order, are the suggested: Tommy Anel, Scott Casey, Keith Eric, Randy Hogan, Barry Horowitz, Sam Houston, Mike Jackson, Steve Lombardi, George South, Tokyo Bullets. Previous winners of JOBBER OF THE YEAR:

13. ANGLE OF THE YEAR: This should be either an angle or a skit that was used to set up a feud as opposed to a feud itself. Previously, this category was combined with "Feud of the year". Previous winners: of ANGLE OF THE YEAR: 1986: Hogan vs Orndorff, 1987: Lawler vs Idol & Rick.

14. BEST FEUD OF THE YEAR: This refers to the best series of matches during the past year.

15. DUMBEST ANGLE OF THE YEAR: Again, this pertains only to a skit or an angle. This category was previously "Dumbest angle/feud of the year". Previous winners of DUMBEST ANGLE: 1986 The Masked Machines in the WWF 1987: Ric Flair and the mannequin.

16. DUMBEST FEUD OF THE YEAR: Which series of match-ups just seemed plain dumb.

17. WORST WRESTLER OF THE YEAR: Though the qualifications are wide open to include everyone, perhaps it should be limited to those with at least a couple of years of ring experience and those under 50 years old. Needless to say, the list of candidates is endless. Previous winners of WORST WRESTLER: 1986-Mike Von Erich, 1987-Junk Yard Dog.

18. BEST BABYFACE: Consideration should be given to all round performance including, but not limited to, drawing power, heat generated live, both solicited and unsolicited, interviews and as a role model. Previous winner of BEST BABYFACE: 1986 & 1987 Hulk Hogan.

19. BEST HEEL: Your choice here should center on those wrestlers who are most effective as heels. Past winners of BEST HEEL: 1986-Michael Hayes, 1987-Terry Taylor.

20. MANAGER OF THE YEAR: Interviews, ringside manners, and ring persona should all play a part in your decision. Previous winners of MANAGER OF THE YEAR: 1986 & 1987 Jim Cornette.

21. DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR: This award has been presented monthly here in the Forum and all of the previous monthly winners are eligible as well as anyone else. Please give the reason for your choice(s). "General Principles" is an acceptable reason. Monthly winners of DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR from 1988 have been: Nov 87-World Class tour sponsors; Dec 87-WWF for Slammies; Jan 88-WWF for Royal Rumble coinciding with NWA PPV event; Feb 88-Kevin Sullivan's shoot interviews on Nikita's family problems; Mar 88-Brother Ernest Angel; Apr 88-National Enquirer; May 88-Midnight Rockers for stealing and losing AWA belts without AWA permission; June 88-Jim Crockett for not firing Dusty after Powers left; July-Steve Dahl of WLUP FM in Chicago for making fun of Brody's obit

over the air; August-Jim Crockett for promising Bash customers they could meet the stars for \$50 then providing prelim wrestlers for the party; Sept-Carlos Colon for skit involving his wife; Oct-Jon Gallagher for screwing up when picking up Lou Thesz at airport for convention

22. BEST TV SHOW: Pay Per View specials do not count. Saturday Nights' Main Event and TBS prime Time "Clash of Champions" series do count. Other top candidates include, WWF Superstars, WWF Challenge, World Wide, NWA Saturday Night TBS show, CWA (Memphis, CWF (Continental), Legends of World Class, Pro Wrestling This Week, WWF Prime Time (USA), AWA on ESPN, and NWA Main Event. Previous winners of BEST TV SHOW: 1986: Bill Watts Presents UWF, 1987: Saturday Nights' Main Event.

23. MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER: The criteria for this award is improvement over the last twelve months. The winner need not be a "good" worker currently; he just needs to have improved more than anyone else. Previous winners of MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER: 1986: Rick Steiner, 1987 Big Bubba Rogers (Bossman)

24. BEST FINISHING MANEUVER: When voting here, be sure to include the wrestler who does the move. For example, don't just list "DDT". List it as Jake's DDT, or Arn Anderson's DDT, or Dusty's DDT. These top three moves should be the ones that bring you right out of your seat when done. Previous winners of BEST FINISHING MANEUVER: 1986 Jake Roberts' DDT, 1987: Diamond & Tanaka's slingshot DDT.

25. WORST FINISHING MANEUVER: And this is the one you roll your eyes and say, "Ah, gee, not this again!" or some such phrase. Previous winners of WORST FINISHING MANEUVER: 1986 & 1987: Hogan's leg drop.

26. BEST INTERVIEW: Several factors should influence your vote including entertainment, effectiveness (of getting over with fans), clarity on points, and what ever the opposite of redundant is. Previous winners of BEST INTERVIEW: 1986 Ric Flair, 1987 Jim Cornette.

27. MOST DISGUSTING EVENT: Always interesting to see what fans come up with. The only qualifications is anything that disgusted you. Previous winners of MOST DISGUSTING EVENT: 1986 Adrian Adonis' Gay Act, 1987: Fritz Von Erich's handling of Mike's death.

28. BEST NEWSSTAND MAGAZINE: I know a lot of you don't read them, so vote only if you do (and I promise not to tell). Previous winners of BEST NEWSSTAND MAGAZINE: 1986 & 1987 Pro Wrestling Illustrated.

29. BIGGEST SHOCK: You should choose the event or news that you had the hardest time believing at first. Previous winners of BIGGEST SHOCK: 1986: none, 1987-Watts sells UWF.

30. WORST ANNOUNCER: This is self explanatory. It may be hard to limit yourself to three choices, but try. Previous winners of WORST ANNOUNCER: 1986: none, 1987 David Crockett.

31. BEST MAJOR EVENT: This new category includes all promotions. Possible choices are; Wrestlemania, Crockett Cup, Bunkhouse Stampede finals, Starrcade 87, 1ST Survivor Series, Clash of Champions I, II, or III, Parade of Champions, Summer Slam, and more that I've probably missed. Starrcade 87 is eligible (since it happened in Nov 87), but 88 is not.

SURVEY QUESTION

For a survey question this year, we're going to pose a hypothetical situation. You have just been made matchmaker/booker by a worldwide charity. This charity has convinced every promotion to release its wrestlers for one night. You, as match maker, are now in charge of signing five matches using any wrestlers in the world today. One match can be a six man tag match, and the rest can be regular tags or singles (they can all be singles if you wish). You don't have to give the results, just the "Dream match ups." You may, as booker, book the end of one match. All of the "dream cards" will be listed in the yearbook along with some selected endings.

ADDITIONAL SURVEY QUESTION

Or how to make more work for the editor. These questions are optional, but I'd like to see them answered. A friend with a computer has volunteered to put together some interesting demographics using this data which we'll also include in the yearbook.

AGE

OCCUPATION

SEX

YEARS A FAN

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF LIVE CARDS ATTENDED IN A YEAR

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK SPENT WATCHING TV WRESTLING

NUMBER OF NEWSLETTERS SUBSCRIBED TO

AND JUST FOR FUN

We also are interested in any "awards" you can come up with for the past year. These aren't just any awards, but are the coveted FORUMS in the same vein as the previous years' Grande Awards and Ed Garea's Phannies. Get as cute or sarcastic as you want. Just to give you some examples, here are last year's GRANDE AWARDS:

STRONGEST WRESTLER OF THE YEAR: Dusty Rhodes (who else could push a 300 pound tub of goo as far as he did this past year).

ISN'T HE DEAD YET: Giant Baba

IS HE STILL ALIVE: Bob Brown

THE GORDON SOLIE "THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE" AWARD: Championship Wrestling from Florida

THE MOST FAMOUS INANIMATE OBJECT OF THIS OR ANY OTHER YEAR: Ric Flair's Mannequin

THE FIRST GUY (after Jerry Falwell) THAT JESUS WANTS TOT TALK TO WHEN HE RETURNS: Fritz Von Erich

BEST NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING CITY: Calgary

WORST NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING CITY: Bcston

AFTER YEARS OF ANTICIPATION HE FINALLY BECOMES A WORLD CHAMPION?BEST

SLEEPER HOLD BY AN AMERICAN LEAGUE SECOND BASEMAN: Greg Gagne

THE JIM CORNETTE NEVER DISAPPOINT YOU AWARD: Paul E Dangerously

BEST IMPRESSION OF A HALLOWEEN MARSH-ALL CANDY: Adrian Adonis

THE "I WENT TO A TITAN CARD AND A WRESTLING MATCH BROKE OUT" AWARD: Strike Force vs Islanders

the LARRY NELSON DOESN'T HE KNOW ITS A WORK AWARD: Akira Maeda

ROOKIE BULLETIN WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Brother Jeff Steele-Pro Wrestling Digest

the ALRIGHT! WHO'S THE &#(\$) RESPONSIBLE AWARD: The idiot who cut Missy's Manor that would have shown Missy and Elizabeth together on the same screen.

the ANDRE THE GIANT _ WHAT DID HE SAY AWARD: Tommy Rich

the COME ON! YOU KNOW YOU LOVED IT AWARD: tie between Ted DiBiase kicking the ball away from Scul Train's kid and Honky Tonk shoving Elizabeth.

MEMPHIS/WORLD CLASS

We are going to combine a couple of reports here for several reasons among them being the virtual merge of the two promotions. Jerry Jarrett has purchased a controlling interest in the World Class promotion and has already begun calling the shots there as well as in Memphis.

Although we are not sure of the exact date of the sale or the takeover, the deal involved quite a bit more than we had speculated in previous issues. Jarrett purchased 60% of the stock by buying up the stock Ken Mantell had plus some of the stock offered by both Kevin and Kerry. The final tally leaves Jarrett holding 60% with Kevin and Kerry 20% each. This gives Jarrett undeniable claim to the third largest promotion in the United States, for whatever that's worth.

One of the biggest changes in the World Class promotion will be the way TV is done. Jarrett has been very successful with doing TV tapings on Saturday mornings in Memphis, followed by a show Monday night in the Mid South Coliseum. He will carry over this idea somewhat by having free TV tapings in the Sportatorium on Saturday mornings with the show those tapings set up on the following Friday night. This should really help attendance as the previous shows had been taped from the Sportatorium weekly show. With the new set up, he allows fans to get in free on Saturday mornings to see angles set up and then charges them (with tickets on sale directly after the show) for the big show on Friday night. I suspect that we'll see almost immediate results in the live gates from the Sportatorium.

Other than that, you can expect full talent exchanges. Right now, the promotions will run as separate entities (the way the NWA should have run the UWF when it was purchased), and as long as both remain successful with the talent exchanges, I would see no reason for change. If you remember the old Roller Games featuring the LA T-Birds, the set up (or should I say concept) is going to be similar. The T-Birds were always the babyface team in LA, however when they traveled to Philadelphia, suddenly they were the heels. Same thing here. Anyone from Memphis wrestling here will be heels and anyone from WCCW wrestling in Tennessee will be the heel. Let's just hope that everyone remembers what city they're in or things could really get confused.

This past Friday night (11/11) they did an interesting spur of the moment angle due to several no shows and such. They had scheduled the Tennessee-Texas shootout scheduled for the Sportatorium with Lawler, Jarrett, Marlin and Jimmy Valiant vs Kevin, Kerry, Frank Dusek, and Eric Embry. Problems arose when Jerry Lawler had a legit foot injury and couldn't make it and Jimmy Valiant just didn't show up. Kevin had been injured earlier in the night (more later) so he was replaced by Steve Cox. They still had to come up with replacements for the Tennessee guys so they came up with Texas hating Samoan Swat Team to tag with Marlin and Jarrett.

The Samoans had their problems in the match, not working well with Jarrett and Marlin and not wanting to tag in to either. Several times they went for a double clothesline only to catch Jeff rather than their intended victim. All hell finally broke loose with all eight guys in the ring at once and a three way brawl. Marlin got thrown out of the ring and the SST were ready to destroy Jeff when Kevin Von Erich made a "1776 save" (head bandaged and bloodied from earlier in the evening. he looked like one of the three marching guys from that painting). At the end, Jeff shook hands with the Von Erichs and settled their differences. This could prove to be very interesting as now Lawler can come back and wonder why he's siding with them, thus setting up a feud that way if they want. How would Jerry play as a heel in Memphis? Or would they have Jeff as the heel there and the babyface in Texas. See what

I mean about all sorts of interesting possibilities?

On the Memphis scene, there has been a split in the Studd's Stable and this may be the beginning of the end for several involved. As mentioned last issue, Gary "Mr. Rookie" Young and Cactus Jack won the tag belts in a tournament for the held up belts. As a results, the winners were to have received a title shot at the World champions, the SST (why do they recognize the AWA world champ and the World Class Tag team champs?). On an interview the following week (following the victory) Robert Fuller came out and asked that the title shot be given to other members of the stable, namely Fuller and Golden. Young and Jack refused and a brawl ensued with Downtown Bruno just kind of standing around wondering who to side with. He got pushed around by both sides but ends up with Jack and Young. Sylvia will handle the stable from here on out. Jack got hit with something (possibly the kendo stick Sylvia carries around) and bled a bunch. This is fast becoming his best move, the rake of the blade across the forehead. Later in the show during a Fuller/Golden squash, Young and Jack made a "1776 run in" (this is becoming quite popular). Fuller and Golden had stolen the tag team belts during the first melee and during the second, the newly turned faces got one of the belts back. They will feud over the straps with Bruno leading the faces. Main problem here is that Bruno will be useless as a face so he's either on his way out, or they are going to have to turn him. With Sylvia around, that is doubtful so Bruno may be job hunting by the time you read this.

Jeff Jarrett lost the light heavyweight title back to Eric Embry on the 11th in Dallas. They did a screw job ending where Jarrett was DQ'd (thus a title change according to their rule) so they can show the fans back in Memphis how the refs down in Texas are "paid off." I don't know how this will go over due to the change mentioned in the eight man tag match, but this match took place prior to that match. All this switching back and forth is going to be so confusing to the wrestlers and being that FNN carries the program in the Texas market, the fans may be real confused. Despite the screw job ending, the Texas fans cheered Embry for winning the title.

In some AWA news, the reason for the constant confusion surrounding who has the claim for the AWA and World Class belts is to build up the PPV show on 12/13. Actually if you sit back and put things into chronological order, it all makes sense. The problem is the title has been unified so many times that no one is sure what's going on which is basically what they want. This supposedly will mean that the PPV show will once and for all end all the confusion and crown the definitive champion. Jarrett and Gagne and the Von Erichs are all very satisfied thus far that they have been able to confuse the sheets because they know for sure that the fans are confused as well. But, confusion tends to turn off most fans; if they have to think too hard and too long, they just stop caring. When we get the figures from the gate and the PPV, we'll know if this was the case or not.

Teijo Khan and Soldat Ustinov have left the AWA seeking someone who will give them at least three days work per week.

Ron Garvin is rumored to heading to Titan so his days as AWA TV champ seem to be numbered. I guess they'll give it back to Reggie since he's about the only one they know won't be leaving. The AWA also expects Jim Brunzell to be "crawling back" soon, but something tells me that if he even accidentally turns in their direction, they will consider that a full fledged crawl.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Everything is now focused on Thanksgiving night when Survivor Series II will take place. The show is being hyped to death now and there will be a few changes and things happening right up until show time that could change the line up even more.

The first thing is that a dozen or so Titan wrestlers have been given notice by the office. There are several names floating around and the ones I've heard are Jim Brunzell, Brian Blair, Ron Bass, Ken Patera, and Baron Von Raschke. None of these are confirmed with the exception of Blair who, when handed his notice, blew up and refused to work the Survivor series. The notices are to take effect on December 1. From what we can piece together (which isn't much as they have once again closed the door on a lot of the information) Lanny Poffo will take Blair's place in his match.

The reason given to me for the layoff of so many wrestlers at once is plain and simple budget cuts. They have signed so many new faces in the past few months with such inflated salaries that they had to make some cuts. Most of the people let go mean nothing anyway, at least at the gate. Their reasoning was such that these guys were only working the opening events anyway and local jobbers from independents can fill the bill where they were at. Also, by cutting down to two shows a night (as mentioned last issue) they they can strengthen their line up with wrestlers who are more over and can draw. I doubt if there will be a stampede by the competition to sign those who are departing, but something tells me that Verne will be on the scene to try to sign some.

The latest rumor that the offices are releasing (and let me tell you how wary I am of rumors they let "slip" out) is that at Wrestlemania V, Hogan will take the title from Savage in a clean pinfall. The only thing they don't know at this point is what they are going to do with Elizabeth. If this means turning Randy heel (which no doubt it does) this could be the biggest mistake Titan has ever made. They have always said they want Randy to carry them into the 90's. In Titan, it's been proven that more than one turn

pretty well kills a character. Witness Paul Orndorff and (although not WWF wrestlers) Dick Murdoch and Dick Slater. Their turns were all within a short period of time which didn't help.

Rumors persist that Ron Garvin will be joining the WWF before the end of the year. I can't imagine why they would want him other than he holds an AWA belt and Vince still gets some sort of erotic pleasure in signing away AWA talent, especially those with belts.

We're never, ever going to get a straight story on how Titan came out of the Leonard-LeLonde PPV fight. There are those who are saying Titan paid in the neighborhood of \$9 million for the rights and at that figure, there's no way they made money. I've heard from quite a few people who ought to know and the figures range from a loss of about \$3 million to a small profit. Those wrestlers who were recently let go are blaming their departure on Titan's spending money on boxing, though that could be a case of sour grapes. We may never know the full story, but I understand that this spring they are going to do a second PPV event.

The British Bulldogs are probably history after the Survivor series. They have given notice that they plan to work Japan and Calgary (can you imagine the Japanese when they see these two a few pounds heavier than what they remember?). Apparently, the heat between them and the Rougeaus was part of the reason and I'm also told that the Survivor Series will be the Bulldogs last shot at them. Of course, that could very well be a planted story to make sure inside fans tune in to see a real live shoot.

Junkyard Dog is also on the list of casualties though his departure is already in effect. The story is that he and Murawski were fired in Paris for not following rules and regulations.

And finally, Rockin' Robin captured the ladies championship in early October from Sherri Martel while on tour of Europe. We didn't know anything about it until the USA broadcast on election night and Sherri had been defending the title here in the US (in typical Titan style) until the change aired on TV.

AT THE MOVIES

with apologies to Siskel and Ebert

THEY LIVE!

The main question here is, "How can you review a movie without even seeing it?" Fair question. Tough answer.

First off, the sci-fi mold that this movie comes from is one that I am usually not interested in. The plot involves aliens who come to earth and use subliminal advertising to control human minds. A special pair of sunglasses allows the wearer to see the subliminal print on other forms of advertising. They also allow the wearer to see through the human disguise and pick out the aliens who appear as skeletons when seen through the glasses. Knowing that, I'm not sure that I would either want to see the movie or would I be able to give the movie a fair review.

Roddy piper stars as the hero who comes to be in possession of the glasses. The rest of the movie he is bent on destroying the aliens. From all the accounts I've heard (about twenty or so at last count) I can't get many to agree on much else from this point on.

Some say the movie stinks but Piper is fine (wrestling fans mostly). Other say both are bad. Opinions vary on this movie as much as any subject I've ever seen.

The Peoria Journal Star newspaper gave the film three out of four stars. That means I wouldn't like the movie as I never like what their movie critic likes. Sean Grande called last night with his impressions and he liked the movie for the most part and thought Piper was great. That means I would like it because Sean and I tend to agree on a lot of things. What this all means is that next weekend, I'll probably be heading to a movie theatre to see for myself.

So this is how you review a movie you've never seen (It never stopped me from doing book reports in school either): Our tastes in wrestling are very similar; our tastes in movies are going to differ as much as the fans that I've heard from already. Rather than review the movie from my standpoint, I suggest you go see it first hand then report back. Next issue we'll run an informal "thumbs up or thumbs down poll". The only thing everyone agree on even remotely so far is that a fisherman suplex in a street fight is pretty silly.

PRINCESS BRIDE

This movie featuring Andre the Giant in a major role has been out for quite some time and is available on video cassette.

This one I saw.

The movie is a surprise as it's one that the whole family can enjoy. Children will enjoy the adventure; adults will enjoy the subtle humor and satire; wrestling fans will enjoy Andre and his inside jokes. This movie was done around the time he was parading around the WWF in a Machine mask and one of his lines to another character is, "you can't trust anyone who wears a mask."

Andre puts on one of the best performances of his life. I don't know why he doesn't just pursue and acting career instead of messing around with killing himself in the ring. He is a little hard to understand at first but once you get used to his speech patterns, he's not only understandable, but funny as well. It's not particularly easy for someone who grew up speaking one language to do humor with voice inflections in another language, but Andre handles the job.

This is one of those rare movies that will be in my collection permanently. I highly recommend it.

First up this time out, the Grappler appeared on the 10/15 Portland card with the Northwest belt back around his waist. They made no mention of a title change on TV so it appears this may have been an office change. Also, Al Madril won the TV title in a tournament on 10/9 in Finley, WA. In the opening match on the 15th, Madril was DQ'd for tossing powder into Top Gun's eyes. Gun, by the way, said he had his lawyers working on getting Kids' Nights reinstated in time for a 10/29 pre Halloween card. In a scientific bout, Mike Golden crocheted himself on the top rope and his opponent Steve Doll refused to pin him so the bout was a draw. Grappler said he would hand the NW belt over to Tatsumi Fujinami if he could not beat the Japanese star later that night.

Abudda Dein returned with a new oriental nerve hold which he applied to Billy Two Eagles after scoring a pin on the Indian. Fujinami appeared on a TV interview with Top Gun but his match with Grappler was dark (a typo in last issue's report made it appear that Ric Flair was Fujinami's opponent instead of Grappler hence the comment that the Dragon did not have the best opponent for a Japanese style match).

In the televised main event, the returning Matt Borne faced Buddy Rose and they brawled for about 40 seconds before Avalanche, Dein, and Madril ran in and attacked Borne. Doll, Peterson, Gun and Golden came in as well and a great free for all ensued with the faces finally running the heels out. Borne won via DQ.

Fujinami retained the IWGP title when he went to a 30 minute draw with Grap and the masked heel did indeed give his foe the belt. The news of Tatsumi winning the NW title hit Japan, where it was announced that he pinned Grappler in 32:00. It was announced here that Grappler would soon be going to the Land of the Rising Sun to try and regain the title. It is more likely that Grap will be going to Continental for a time to team with Grappler #2 (Rick Hazzard).

Skipping over to 10/29, the TV show went head to head with SNME on NBC. In the first half hour before the NBC show started, they ran a tag title match between the champs (the Southern Rockers) and Grappler and Abuddah Dein. After a great battle (this was a no DQ match) all four were in the ring and ref Sandy Barr took a bump. Grap loaded his boot and kicked Peterson. Doll and Dein were battling and Matt Borne entered the ring and loaded up his wrist brace as Grap begged for mercy. Borne, however, hit Doll with the brace and Steve was pinned for a title change. Borne now wears a crown and calls himself "King Matthew." Good stuff, however it is a bit redundant to have two heels with loaded weapons.

Borne's heel turn should prove to boost attendance. Also on the 29th, Top Gun beat Madril in a coal miner's glove match to win the TV title in the dark match. Col DeBeers returned this night and started a feud with Mike Golden. By the way, this was Kid's Night, supposedly thanks to Top Gun.

On 11/5, DeBeers vs Golden opened the card and went to a DCOR. Afterwards, DeBeers grabbed Golden's bat from ringside, but Mike clotheslined him sending the bat flying. Golden then rammed DeBeer's arm and shoulder into the mat twice and picked up his bat. Barr grabbed the bat away, however, as the Colonel hobbled off. They announced that Debeers suffered a slight injury and it was unknown if he would make his upcoming bookings for the week. He is probably touring with the AWA.

Top Gun scored apinfall over Avalanche and left the ring without being jumped, however he was attacked on a TV interview by Rose, Grappler and Borne and they unlaced his mask, but instead of pulling the hood off, Rose just snipped some hair off the back of Gun's neck until the Rockers made the save. What happened to proving that Top Gun was the Assassin?!?! This had to occur to even the densest marks. Also, Rose and AV were held to a draw by Art Barr and Rex King. King did a squash job for Grappler on the card. On an interview, Top Gun was accompanied by a man with a sheet over him and said he would reveal this for for King Matthew on the 11/12 show. Also on the 13th, Grap and Gun meet "for the right to go to Japan to face Fujinami."

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

21

10/16 LOS ANGELES (WWF) - courtesy of Eddie Nakamoto... Roma pinned Lonbardi...Blazer over Estrada...Hennig beat Brunzell...Warrior over HTM via DQ...Hogan pinned Haku... Boss Man squashed Koko...Harts over Rougeaus by DQ...Jake pinned Rude...NOTES: Jimmy Hart threw powder in Warrior's face for DQ...Hogan's first return here since vacation...

10/24 NEW YORK (WWF) -courtesy of Chris Delloiacono...Roma beat Davis...Bossman over Koko...Demolition pinned Rockers...Hercules defeated Virgil...Blazer downed Lombardi...Savage over Andre by DQ...Bravo over Duggan by COR...Rougeaus drew Harts...Jake DDT'd Rude...NOTES: Attendance 12,000... Ray Rougeau snuck out and rang time keeper's bell with a couple of minutes remaining making Harts think time had run out when they had Jacques ready to pin...match continued and ended in a draw...only way to win Jake-Rude match was with either DDT or Rude Awakening...

11/1 DEKALB, IL (WCCW) - courtesy of Steve Sims...Brian Costello pinned Ivan Petroskey (ZZ)...Calypso Jim beat Kurt Von Steiner II (D)...arm wrestling...Iceman over Kendall (B-)...SST DCOR Hayes/Cox (C+)...Kerry pinned Bostwani Beast...NOTES: Attendance: 375...Time of card 1:57.0...actual time spent wrestling 0:50.0...Kendall carried his match well, but Iceman called it.

11/2 CHICAGO (WCCW) - courtesy of Ralph Obloza...Ivan Podgorsky beat Costello...Calypso still beat "Von Schneider" (both D's)...Kendall DDQ Iceman (B)...Kerry pinned Beast (D)...Hayes/Cox beat SST (C)...NOTES: Attendance: 310... Podgorsky and Von Scheider (THEY CHANGE THEIR NAMES NIGHTLY) had friends in the audience yelling out their real names... Ring announcer said Kurt was "Australlian champ" as he stood there in a Nazi uniform...someone corrected him and he then announced "Austrian champ"...

11/4 CENTRALIA, IL (IND-Bruiser Brody Memorial Tournament, Sam Munchnik promoter) - courtesy of Harry White...Spike Huber beat Giant Assassin...Bob Orton pinned Ricky Valentino. Steve Regal over Gary Lawler...Chris Adams DCOR Dick Murdoch...Huber over Orton by DQ...Spike beat Regal for championship...Debbie Combs beat Lady Satin (mom Cora)... NOTES: Attendance: 600...Barbara Goodish was there and chased Regal's mgr around during finish of championship match...japanese press was there...Barbara very cordial to fans.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

As always, we start this section with the useless trivia question. Last time we asked, "Prior to joining the Fabulous Ones and the Midnight Express, who did Stan Lane team with to capture the Florida Tag Team Championships?" The answer was, and still is for that matter, Bryon St. John. This time we want to know the name of the song that the Varsity Club uses for entrance music. Oh yes, it does have a name and in fact is on at least one album that I know of (because I found it in my collection). The answer is next time and the reason we call all this useless is because even if you know the right answer, there's no prize. Just the satisfaction of knowing how smart you really are. And isn't that enough of a prize after all? Excuse me while I take my tongue out of my cheek and tell you the correct answer will be right here next issue.

Check out the latest issue of Pro Wrestling Illustrated especially the cover. Look at the inserted picture of Savage and Hogan doing the mega powers handshake. Then right above that is a guy in a white hat. Photographic evidence that our very own Sean Grande did in fact attend Summerslam in person.

Here's a reader request of monumental importance (I know ccs he said so)...JOHN McADAM of 303-5 Brookvilliage Rd, Nashua, NH 03062 is looking for someone who can supply him with the 90 minute version of Memphis and the local Continental show (not the one from FNN) on a regular basis. Write or call for details.

Our cable system in its infinite wisdom is not going to carry the AWA-World Class-Memphis PPV event. If someone is going please phone in results and if someone has a tape of the event, let me know as well. We should get Starrcade and Survivor Series (SS definite).

Speaking of the AWA, Stoney Burke is going to dye his hair purple and be known as "the Stinger" from now on. What originality in a name! Someone jokingly said this will be a cross between Ann Cavello (roller derby star from the 50-60's with - believe it or not - polka dotted hair) and Randy Hogan. At least I think it was a joke.

Kamala should be returning to the Memphis circles soon. I guess he's solved the problem he had with a Kamalawannabe (and what person in their right mind would wannabe) in the Beast.

The NWA and Ted Turner have made it official with a news conference (my invitation must be in the mail... from Canada) with the buyout. The name of the new company will be the Universal Wrestling Corporation. Jim Petrick will be the new president and Jim Crockett will remain in the capacity of vice president. I was told part of the reason behind the name was due to needing to keep the "Universal" name alive in case Bill Watts decides to start up again. Something to do with if the name UWF isn't used in a certain period of time plus the default or partial default of payments combining to create a loophole for Watts to come back. I don't even understand what I just typed so I don't expect you to. I don't know if that means the NWA is history as far as the name goes or not. I'll have more by next issue I'm sure.

Mike Gendleman out in Hicksville, NY called tonight to let us and our readers know of a potentially big problem for readers in the New York area (and possibly other locations as well). The cable company for Long Island called Cablevision has pulled the MSG network from its system. This means a loss of not only MSG cards, but also World Class not to mention Knicks and Ranger games. A rally is being organized by Mike and friends at the Cablevision headquarters in Woodbury, NY on 11/26, a Saturday. If you are interested in showing up or helping out, give Mike a call at (516) 933-7484. This could affect a lot of the country because a lot of tape traders from that area may not be able to supply tapes anymore. Mike's going to try to get me an address for letters by next issue so we can all get involved.

Our subscription drive is not doing well at all. We are still stuck at 223 subscribers. No one seems to know why.

Titan did a TV taping tonight and tomorrow night in California. Full details next time.

After the Survivor series on Thanksgiving night, I'll be ignoring my call waiting, so if you get a ring and I don't answer, you'll know I'm on the phone. You can either let the phone ring and I'll pick up your call next, or keep trying back. I have a feeling it's going to be a busy night.

Time to go...The Good Lord willin' and the creeks don't rise, we'll see you back here in a couple weeks. Bye.

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